

clay, the workmen have laid bare at Montalets (commune of Meudon) a left thigh-bone, which, from its characters, appears to me to belong to the most common of the species of *Anoplotherium* described by Cuvier; it differs but a very little from it by being a little longer in the bone, and will range under the varieties mentioned by that illustrious palæontologist. The proportions compared to those of the commonest species are:—

	Commonest species (Cuvier).	Meudon species.
Length between the head and the inner condylus...	0,36	0,40
Breadth between the head and the great trochanter	0,12	0,118
Breadth from one condylus to the other .....	0,10	0,085
Great diameter of the head.....	0,047	0,053
Diameter of the bone at its mean part .....	0,053	0,053

This bone, the largest and best-preserved perhaps which has been found in the inferior layers of our tertiary system, is of a dark brown externally as well as throughout its compact substance; but the spongy tissue is incrustated with iron pyrites ornamented with the richest colours; the tissue is moreover penetrated with very small crystals of sulphate of lime, which mineral incrustated all the bone with lenticular crystals, even disputing the place with some impressions of carbonized plants. It will perhaps also be interesting to learn, that in the neighbourhood of its site and a little above it, in the midst of a grayish clay abounding in seeds of *Chara* transformed into hydrate of iron, a large number of nodules of amber were gathered, as pure and transparent, but more fragile than that found on the coasts of the Baltic.—*Comptes Rendus*, Dec. 23, 1844.

*Description of a new species of Australian Bird.* By J. GOULD.

PODICEPS AUSTRALIS. *P. quoad colorem*, *P. cristato consimilis*, *at cristâ collari in medio latiùs et saturatiùs castaned, et ad apicem latiùs nigra.*

Crown of the head and occipital tufts black; frill black at the outer edge and chestnut in the centre, gradually passing into buffy white on the face; upper surface and wings dark brown; scapularies and secondaries pure white; all the under surface silvery white, stained with brown and chestnut on the flanks; irides red; bill dark horn-colour; upper surface of the tarsi and toes dark olive-green; under surface pale yellow.

Total length, 24 inches; bill,  $2\frac{3}{4}$ ; wing,  $7\frac{1}{2}$ ; tarsi,  $2\frac{1}{4}$ .

*Hab.* Australia and Van Diemen's Land.

*Remark.*—Nearly allied to *P. cristatus*, but differs in being somewhat larger in size, and in having the frill fuller and of a blacker hue than in that species.—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* August 13, 1844.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTICE.

We are informed that Mr. King is preparing for publication a portion of his Lectures on Geology. The subjects treated of may be gathered from the following headings:—

A popular view of the production of coal from vegetable matter.